

## **White Paper on Sidewalk from Royal Run and Crosswalk over Whitestown Boulevard**

Currently, there is no sidewalk that connects the neighborhood of Royal Run to the facilities across Whitestown Boulevard, and especially important, Zionsville West Middle School. There is also no crosswalk at the new stoplight at CR 700 E and Whitestown Boulevard, making it completely unsafe for pedestrians or cyclists to cross the road. It is very concerning that there is no way for the residents of Royal Run to travel outside of a car, especially students, to facilities across Whitestown Boulevard. Facilities much used by students, like Zionsville Youth Soccer Association, Village Dance Studio, the Boy's and Girls' Club, and Zionsville West Middle School should be accessible for anyone by foot or bicycle. A sidewalk and crosswalk is important for the safety of our students.

There are presently about 174 students who live in Royal run in our school. These students cannot get to school by any other way than by vehicle. It is inconvenient for the students, their parents, and all of the people in the community. The students must take buses to get to school, and the buses take quite some time to get to the school. Students would much rather walk to school if the busses are going to take that long. It is also inconvenient for the parents of the students, because they may have to take their kids to school every day. Most of all, this costs taxpayers money. With more students getting to school by themselves, we would need a few less buses. Overall, a sidewalk and crosswalk need to be built so that students can get to school.

It is currently impossible to walk or bike across Whitestown Boulevard. More people than just students need this ability, as there is Village Dance Studio, McDonald's, and soon to be a Meijer across Whitestown Boulevard. The area is in Zionsville and Whitestown's jurisdictions, so the towns would have to work together if the problem was to be addressed. This should not be too hard, though, because the two communities work closely together already. There is a law requiring the developers to put in a sidewalk, which is the reason for the sidewalk outside of Maple Grove. However, existing developers prior to the law did not have to put down sidewalks. The government could easily build a sidewalk with a right of way or easement. Discussions of constructing a crosswalk or an elevated crosswalk have already begun. Safety crossing this street is very important and doable. However, elevated crosswalks are much more expensive than crosswalks, and crosswalks are just more practical.

The price of a sidewalk and crosswalk would be about \$155,000. This would be an easy project to accomplish because of its relatively small price and short distance. There is no set budget for sidewalks, so the money would come out of roads and parks, as sidewalks are considered linear parks. If more kids walk or bike to school, it could save money for citizens in the long run because people would spend less money on transportation to and from school. A grant might be necessary for this project, but it would be difficult to get because of Zionsville demographics. However, the fact that it is for a school would help, and if both town contribute we could have enough without a grant.

The Town of Zionsville Pathways Committee says on their website "The Town of Zionsville began its effort to create a comprehensive pedestrian/bicycle pathway system in 1985, becoming one of the first communities in Indiana to understand the importance of connecting residential neighborhoods, schools, parks and businesses with a non-vehicular trail system." This shows that non-vehicular transportation, or cyclists and pedestrians, is a priority in Zionsville. This is especially important for children under 16 who cannot yet drive. In order to safely allow for non-vehicular transportation to important establishments across Whitestown Boulevard, this sidewalk and crosswalk must be built.